

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A)
SUBJ: VISIT BY FORMER VP ROCKEFELLER TO EGYPT

SUMMARY: FORMER VP ROCKEFELLER HAD SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO EGYPT MARCH 18-21, DURING WHICH TIME HE HAD DINNER WITH SADATS AND AN HOUR AND HALF MEETING WITH FAHMY. HE BELIEVES SADAT WILL RAISE WITH PRES CARTER DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT QUESTION OF POSSIBLE AMERICAN ARMS SALES TO EGYPT AND SOVIET STRATEGY IN AFRICA AND ME, IN ADDITION TO ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. GOV ROCKEFELLER IS CONCERNED ABOUT EGYPT'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND INTENDED TO DISCUSS FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT WITH SAUDIS. GOV ROCKEFELLER HAS INVITED SADATS TO STOP OVER IN POCANTICO HILLS AFTER THEIR WASHINGTON VISIT BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER THE SADATS WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO. END SUMMARY

1. ROCKEFELLER'S PROGRAM. GOV AND MRS ROCKEFELLER AND DAUGHTER MELINDA ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE AFTERNOON MARCH 18 AND WERE MET BY GEN MOKHTAR OF THE PRESIDENCY AND CHARGE AND WIFE. GOV WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN RECENT US STATEMENTS ON ME PEACE PROCESS AND CHARGE GAVE HIM COLLECTION OF TEXTS OF THESE RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRES CARTER, SEC VANCE AND WHITE HOUSE

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AND DEPT SPOKESMAN, WHICH GOV READ IN CAR ON WAY IN FROM AIRPORT. FURTHER HOUR LONG DISCUSSION CONDUCTED IN ROCKEFELLER SUITE AT HILTON IN PREPARATION FOR FAMILY DINNER WITH SADATS THAT EVENING. ON SATURDAY MORNING GOV HAD ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH FAHMY AND THEN HE AND HIS PARTY VISITED THE MUSEUM, DID SOME SHOPPING, WENT OUT TO VIEW SAQARA PYRAMIDS AND ENDED WITH LIGHT SUPPER AT PRESIDENTIAL GUEST HOUSE OVER-

LOOKING THE GIZA PYRAMIDS WITH CHARGE AND WIFE. ROCKEFELLERS WERE SEEN OFF AT AIRPORT SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 21 BY GEN MOKHTAR, CHARGE AND WIFE AND WERE ACCOMPANIED TO UPPER EGYPT BY ESCORT OFFICER JOHN CRAIG. GOV ROCKEFELLER LEFT FOR RIYADH MARCH 21 AND MRS ROCKEFELLER AND MELINDA WILL JOIN HIM IN AMMAN MARCH 22.

2. DINNER WITH SADATS. GOVT SAID DINNER FRIDAY EVENING WAS VERY INTIMATE EN FAMILLE AFFAIR WITH SADAT CHILDREN AND SPOUSES PRESENT. IN DISCUSSION WITH SADAT GOV RECEIVED VERY STRONG IMPRESSION THAT SADAT IS DESPERATELY ANXIOUS FOR PEACE AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PERMIT HIM TO DEVOTE EGYPT'S RESOURCES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTEAD OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION. GOVT SAID SADAT ASKED HIM WHETHER CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE SALE OF FURTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT, SUCH AS F5'S AND TOW MISSILES; SADAT ALSO ASKED HIM WHETHER CONGRESS COULD BE RECEPTIVE TO FURTHER SUCH SALES AFTER A PEACE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED. GOV BELIEVES SADAT WILL CERTAINLY RAISE ARMS SALES DURING WASHINGTON VISIT. SADAT ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER EGYPT'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND GOV INTENDED DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH SAUDIS DURING VISIT TO RIYADH TO SEE WHAT FURTHER MIGHT BE DONE TO HELP EGYPT. GOV SAID HE HAD INVITED SADATS TO STAY AT ROCKEFELLER ESTATE AT POCANTICO HILLS FOLLOWING VISIT TO WASHINGTON; SADAT SEEMED INTERESTED BUT COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT UNTIL HIS SCHEDULE BECAME FIRM.

3. MEETING WITH FAHMY. FAHMY AND GOV MET ALONE FOR ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS SATURDAY MORNING DURING WHICH FAHMY
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APPARENTLY GAVE HIS STANDARD TOUR D'HORIZON OF SITUATION IN AREA. HE COMPLAINED TO GOV AS HE HAD TO CHARGE EARLIER ABOUT APPARENT LACK OF INTEREST OF USG IN SOVIET STRATEGY IN ME AND AFRICA, AS SHOWN BY CASTRO'S VOYAGES AND LIBYA'S MACHINATIONS. FAHMY EVIDENCED GREAT INTEREST IN RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRES CARTER ABOUT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND GOV FOUND HIS REACTION TO THEM ON THE WHOLE TO BE POSITIVE.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THE GOV'S VISIT WAS QUITE USEFUL IN THAT HE SERVED AS A REASSURING BRIDGE FOR THE EGYPTIANS FROM THE PAST ADMINISTRATION TO THE PRESENT ONE. SADAT AND FAHMY QUESTIONED HIM CLOSELY ABOUT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S STYLE AND STATEMENTS, AND GOV ROCKEFELLER FELT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO REINFORCE THEIR OWN INCLINATION TO VIEW NEW ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE SETTLEMENT AS BEING SINCERE AND DETERMINED. EGYPTIANS PROVIDED COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR GOV'S VISIT IN FULLY COOPERATIVE MANNER.

5. I TOLD THE GOV I WOULD BE REPORTING TO YOU ALONG ABOVE

LINES AND SAID I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO LETTING
HIM SEE THIS MESSAGE ON HIS RETURN TO US.
MATTHEWS

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